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Barriers

Barriers and or ground protection should protect all trees that are being retained on site. Vertical barriers should be erected and ground protection installed before any materials or machinery are brought onto the site and before any demolition, development or stripping of soil commences. Areas of new or retained structure planting shown on the approved plans should be similarly protected. Once erected, barriers and ground protection should be regarded as sacrosanct, and are not to be removed or altered without prior recommendation by an arboriculturist and approval of the local planning authority.

Barriers are to be robust enough to exclude construction activity and appropriate to the degree and proximity of work taking place around the retained tree(s). Special attention should be paid to ensuring that barriers remain rigid and complete during the entire construction period.

Barriers should consist of a scaffold framework comprising a vertical and horizontal framework, well braced to resist impacts, with vertical tubes spaced at a maximum interval of 3 m. Weldmesh panels should be securely fixed with wire or scaffold clamps to the tubular framework.

Weldmesh panels on rubber or concrete feet are not resistant to impact and should not be used.

Ground protection

Where it has been agreed during the design stage, and shown on the tree protection plan, that vehicular or pedestrian access for the construction operation may take place within the root protection area (Root Protection Area), a combination of barriers and ground protection are to be used to counter the possible effects of construction activity. The position of the barrier may be shown within the RPA at the edge of the agreed working zone but the soil structure beyond the barrier to the edge of the RPA should be protected with ground protection.

Where wheeled or tracked construction traffic movements are likely within the RPA the ground protection should be designed by an engineer to take account of the likely loading and may involve the use of recognized appropriate systems or reinforced concrete slabs.

Please note: it is recommended that the developer purchase their own copy of BS 5837 2005 Trees in **Relation to Construction—recommendations**, to ensure all aspects of tree protection are understood and followed.

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